

# The SOUTHEASTERN Light

SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Voluntary and open membership • Voluntary and open membership

## President's Comments



**Dustin Tripp**  
President/CEO

## Vegetation management

One of the many advantages of living in Southern Illinois is the beauty of this area, including the Shawnee National Forest and the great variety of trees and vegetation that grow throughout the region. Although your Cooperative realizes the significance of this important natural resource and is an advocate for retaining as many local trees as possible, we must implement a sound vegetation management program to provide you with reliable energy solutions.

SouthEastern's current vegetation management program sets the goal of trimming on a 4- to 5-year cycle. This means that what is trimmed or cut today will be trimmed again in 4 to 5 years. Your Cooperative feels that if this goal can be achieved, you as Cooperative members will experience less momentary blinks, less outages and faster restoration times, which will increase the quality and reliability of your electric service. In the past, your Cooperative has experienced extreme storms, resulting in devastating damage which reminds all of us of the importance of a sound vegetation management program.

In order to achieve this goal, SouthEastern needs to trim and cut trees along approximately 700-900 miles of power line per year. The maps that are displayed on page 18B and 18C of this issue show the areas where the Cooperative will be trimming trees, removing trees and applying necessary herbicides in 2026. If you would like additional information regarding your Cooperative's vegetation

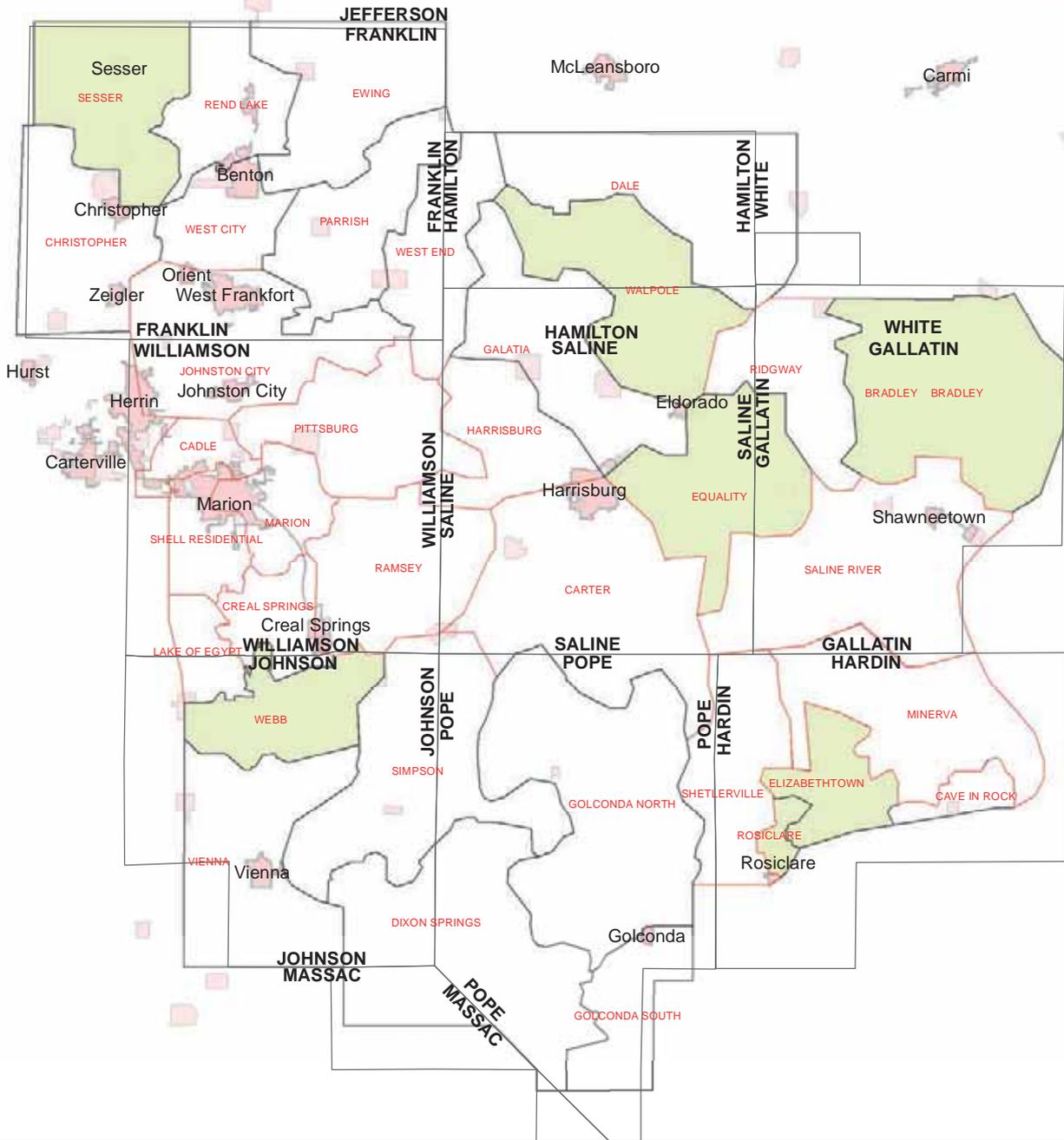
management activities for 2026, please contact the Cooperative.

As Cooperative members and owners, you can help us maximize the use of your money and improve your electric service by allowing us to achieve proper trim clearance on your trees and participating in other programs. Your Cooperative initiated a program several years ago known as "Swap a Tree." The "Swap a Tree" program has been enhanced to allow members an additional option. If you allow the Cooperative to remove a lawn tree that is interfering with primary lines and which is being periodically trimmed by the Cooperative, you are eligible to receive one of the following two options:

1. SouthEastern will cut the tree down, cut it up into firewood-length pieces, chip the small brush and plant a new tree of your choice, such as oak, maple, tulip poplar, willow, pear and gum (additional species are also available) in a location that is at least 40 feet from the primary line.
2. SouthEastern will cut the tree down, cut it up into firewood-length pieces, chip the small brush, allow members a \$2 per inch in diameter cash credit for lawn tree stump removal and provide a \$75 per lawn tree cash credit.

If you are interested in participating in this program, which will increase the reliability of electric service to yourself and your neighbors while helping to preserve our environment, please contact the Cooperative at 800-833-2611.

READERSHIP  
PRIZE WINNER:  
Richard Jude Sr.,  
West Frankfort, IL

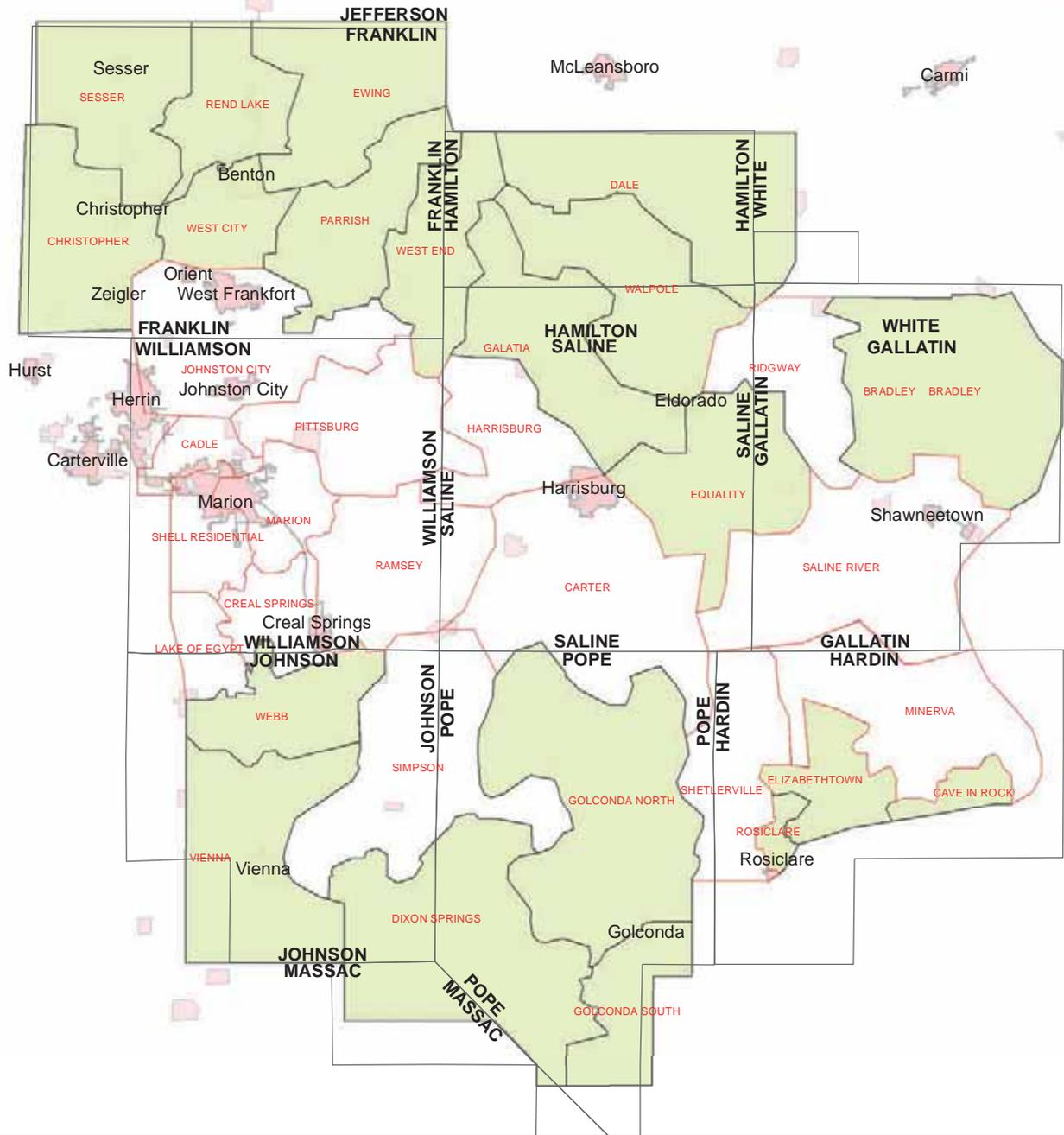


DURING 2026  
 SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
 WILL BE TRIMMING THE  
 RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE ABOVE SHADED AREAS



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 The power of human connections





DURING 2026  
 SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
 WILL BE SPRAYING THE  
 RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE ABOVE SHADED AREAS



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*The power of human connections*





**PRESIDENTS DAY**  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, FEB. 16  
IN OBSERVANCE OF PRESIDENTS DAY.**

# POWER OUTAGE

**If your power goes off, we offer these suggestions**

- 1.** Check the fuses or circuit breakers in your service panels. If you have breakers, make sure they are in the “ON” position.
- 2.** If you have a meter pole, check the main breaker panel just below the meter socket. If the breaker is in the “OFF” position, check all of your wiring from the meter pole to your various buildings. If the wiring appears to be okay, reset the breaker to the “ON” position.
- 3.** If you still do not have power, check with neighbors to see if they have power.
- 4.** To report a power failure or other emergency, please phone 1-877-399-8405. This phone number is monitored around the clock, 365 days per year to accept your outage and emergency calls.
- 5.** Your phone call will be handled by SouthEastern’s automated outage reporting system and will be identified automatically through ANI (Automatic Number Identification). An outage record will then be generated for your location. Please note that the phone number

from which you place the call will be the number used to generate the record. If the system fails to recognize your phone number, members having touch-tone phones may simply enter their seven-digit phone number (without area code) in order to report the outage. Members not having touch-tone phones will be asked to leave a message. It is important you leave your name, phone number and location of the outage. Retrieving messages and entering them into the system is time consuming; therefore, please leave only a message that will help in restoration of electric service. Do not remain on the line for an operator because a live operator is not there to respond. In order to keep a current listing of all numbers, it is important that you notify the Cooperative of any changes in your telephone number.

**6.** Handling outage calls electronically allows you to report power failures very quickly. Once your outage has been reported, it will be dispatched to repair personnel who will restore your outage as soon as possible. Calling back repeatedly will not shorten the length of the outage, but may hinder the efforts of other members who are trying to report outages.

## OUTAGE CALLS ONLY 1-877-399-8405

**SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
100 Cooperative Way • Carrier Mills, IL 62917-2275  
618-273-2611 or 800-833-2611 • Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-F

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SouthEasternIllinoisElectric